46

INCOMING TELEGRAM — Department of State

ACTION COPY (217)

PERMANENT RECORD COPY

35
Action

NEA
Info

SS
G
SP
E
AID
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
OSD
ARMY
NAVY
AIR
RMR

CONFIDENTIAL

Control: 219
Rec'd: NOVEMBER 1, 1963
7:19 AM

FROM: THESSALONIKI

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 51, NOVEMBER 1, 9 AM

PRIORITY

ACTION PRIORITY DEPARTMENT 51, INFORMATION ATHENS 21

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ELECTIONS

AS OF THREE DAYS BEFORE ELECTIONS, ASSESSMENT OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND OUTLOOK FOR NORTHERN GREECE AS FOLLOWS:

1. ISSUES: CAMPAIGN UNDOUBTEDLY EVOKED MORE INTEREST THAN OTHERS IN RECENT PAST. FUNDAMENTAL CAMPAIGN ISSUES HERE ARE ERE THEME OF PROGRESS WITH STABILITY VERSUS CU APPEAL .... FOR RETURN TO DEMOCRACY AND HONEST GOVERNMENT. MARKEZENIS, MIXING HUMOR WITH SHARP ANALYSIS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, HAS EMPHASIZED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORM. EDA HAS DRAGGED OUT WORKHORSES OF FASCISM, MILITARY EXPENDITURES AND AMNESTY. FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES LESS SIGNIFICANT IN CAMPAIGN, BUT SOME PLAY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ALLEGATIONS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS "DROPPED" CARAMANLIS, THAT ERE HAS DONE LITTLE TO ADAPT ITSELF TO COLD WAR DETENTE, AND THAT TURKS HOPING FOR ANOTHER ELECTORAL VICTORY BY APPEASEMENT-MINDED CARAMANLIS.

2. HONEST ELECTIONS: FEW INCIDENTS HAVE MARRED CAMPAIGN HERE TO DATE, MOST SERIOUS ONE, IN WHICH ONLY TWO PERSONS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED, INVOLVED ERE AND CU FOLLOWERS NOT POLICE OR EDA GROUP. DESPITE PRESS ALLEGATIONS, EVERYONE AGREED NO PRESSURE HAS BEEN APPLIED.

3. TRENDS IN CAMPAIGN: ERE APPEARS TO BE LOSING GROUND SIGNIFICANTLY WHILE CU APPARENTLY HAS MADE IMPORTANT INROADS INTO ERE STRENGTH IN AREA, THOUGH TIDE WHICH REACHED PEAK

(1)

• This copy must be returned to RM/R central files with notation of action taken.
REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

ACTION ASSIGNED TO:		ACTION TAKEN	
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL		DATE OF ACTION	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R

GPO 939 500

Thessaloniki 51 11-1-63

POL 14 GREECE

LAST WEEK APPEARS TO BE LEVELING OFF. INDICATORS OF TREND ARE: PAPANDREOU BANDWAGON PSYCHOLOGY, DISCONTENT SPECIFIC GROUPS FRUIT GROWERS, TEACHERS AND CERTAIN CLASSES OF LABORERS, LARGE EMIGRATION FROM NORTHERN GREECE, BELIEF ECONOMIC STABILITY WILL CONTINUE REGARDLESS ELECTION OUTCOME, MECHANICAL FACTORS SUCH AS SHIFT OF FOUR SEATS FROM RURAL TO URBAN DISTRICTS, COUNTING ARMY VOTE IN SOLDIER'S HOME DISTRICT RATHER THAN PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT, REVISION ELECTORAL LISTS, STRINGENT MEASURES SUPERVISE VOTING PROCEDURES. OTHER FACTORS ARE BELIEF BY MANY VOTERS PALACE AND U.S. HAVE DROPPED CARAMANLIS, MEDIOCRITY ERE CANDIDATES IN AREA, WEAK ERE CAMPAIGN BELIEF CU MAY NOW BE MORE THAN SUM OF PARTS, ABSENCE TENSE COLD-WAR SITUATION AND "MAKE VOTE COUNT" PSYCHOLOGY.

4. FORECAST: ESTIMATES ERE LOSSES VARY FROM 5 SEATS BY ERE SUPPORTERS TO 17 BY CU SUPPORTERS. CONGEN ESTIMATES ERE WILL LOSE 10-12 SEATS WITH ERE STANDING GOOD CHANCE OF LOSING SEATS IN ALL BUT THREE NOMES AND POSSIBLY TWO SEATS EACH IN THREE NOMES. PROGRESSIVES EXPECTED OBTAIN AT MOST ONE SEAT IN THESSALONIKI.

EXTENT EDA MAY BENEFIT FROM TREND AWAY FROM ERE DIFFICULT ASSESS AS EDA APPEARS OUT OF TOUCH WITH MOOD OF ELECTORATE AND MAY LOSE VOTES TO CU. IN ADDITION FORMER PAME CANDIDATE NOW ON CU TICKET EXPECTED DRAW VOTES. CONGEN BELIVES EDA GAINS NOT LIKELY EXCEED THREE-FOUR SEATS FOR TOTAL EIGHT-NINE SEATS FROM AREA IN NEW PARLIAMENT. [redacted]

RE NATIONAL SCENE, A NEAR-UNANIMOUS VIEW HERE IS NEITHER PARTY WILL WIN WORKING MAJORITY.

GP-3.

FOLSOM

SYT

CONFIDENTIAL